

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in view of the following remarks. Prior to entry of this response, Claims 1-75 were pending in the application, of which Claims 1, 27, 49, and 64 are independent. In the Office Action dated March 27, 2006, Claims 2-3, 6-10, 20, and 50-52 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, Claims 1-16 and 20-75 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e), and Claims 17-19 were objected to, but were deemed allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Following this response, Claims 1-16, 18-26, and 76-78 remain in this application, Claims 17 and 27-75 being canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and Claims 76-78 being added by this amendment. Applicants hereby address the Examiner's rejections in turn.

I. **Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. §112, First Paragraph**

In the Office Action dated March 27, 2006, the Examiner rejected Claims 2-3, 6-10, 20, and 50-52 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the art, at the time the application was filed, that the inventor had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 2-3, 6-10, and 20 have been amended, and Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments overcome this rejection and add no new matter.

II. Rejection of the Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected Claims 1-16 and 20-75 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,671,699 ("*Black*"). Claim 1 has been amended to include the allowed subject matter from dependent Claim 17. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendment overcomes this rejection and adds no new matter. Accordingly, independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes the present invention over the cited art, and Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of Claim 1.

Dependent Claims 2-16 and 20-26 are also allowable at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection of dependent Claims 2-16 and 20-26. Moreover, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the objection to dependent Claims 18-19 at least for the reasons described above regarding independent Claim 1, and by virtue of their dependency upon independent Claim 1.

III. New Claims

Claims 76-77 have been added to more distinctly define and to round out the protection for the invention to which Applicants are entitled. New Claim 78 has been added to cover the subject matter of the second Claim 22 as the application as filed included two Claim 22s. The second Claim 22 was canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable over the cited art and that they add no new matter.

IV. Conclusion

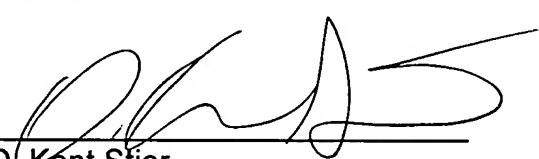
In view of the foregoing remarks, Applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and the timely allowance of the pending claims. The preceding arguments are based only on the arguments in the Office Action, and therefore do not address patentable aspects of the invention that were not addressed by the Examiner in the Office Action. The claims may include other elements that are not shown, taught, or suggested by the cited art. Accordingly, the preceding argument in favor of patentability is advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability. Furthermore, the Office Action contains a number of statements reflecting characterizations of the related art and the claims. Regardless of whether any such statement is identified herein, Applicants decline to automatically subscribe to any statement or characterization in the Office Action.

Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 13-2725.

Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


D. Kent Stier
Reg. No. 50,640

Merchant & Gould
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-9946
Telephone: 404.954.5066



DKS:mdc